

## Agenda Item #13.B.6



STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY • GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN JR.

### BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS

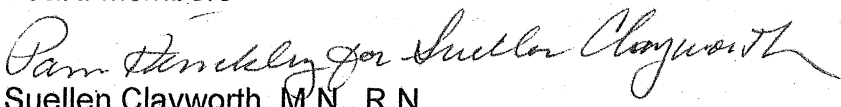
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DATE: February 6, 2013

TO: Board Members

FROM:   
Suellen Clayworth, M.N., R.N.  
Nursing Education Consultant, Retired Annuitant

SUBJECT: West Med College, Merced, Vocational Nursing Program – Request to Admit Students (Director: Tracey Jensen, Merced, Santa Clara County, Private)

On February 24, 2012, the Board placed West Med College, Merced, Vocational Nursing Program on provisional approval<sup>1</sup> for the two-year period from February 24, 2012, through February 28, 2014. The program was required to admit no additional students unless approved by the Board.

The Board is scheduled to reconsider the program's status at its February 2014 Board meeting.

Those actions were taken due to the program's noncompliance with requirements set forth in Section 2530 (l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations which states:

"The program shall maintain a yearly average minimum pass rate on the licensure examination that does not fall below 10 percentage points of the state average pass rate for first time candidates of accredited vocational nursing schools for the same period.

(1) Failure to maintain the required yearly average minimum pass rate for two years or eight consecutive quarters may be cause to place a program on provisional accreditation."

The director now requests Board approval to admit a day class of 30 full-time students and three alternates on May 21, 2013, graduating June 26, 2014, to **replace** students that graduated on June 27, 2013. This class will be the only class in session after the June graduation.

<sup>1</sup> Prior to January 1, 2012, references in article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act and article 4 of the Psychiatric Technicians Law provided that the Board accredits all vocational nursing and psychiatric technicians programs. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 2883 and 4532 (Senate Bill 539, Chapter 338, Statutes of 2011), **accredit** was changed to **approve**. There was no change to the Board's authority or jurisdiction.

## History of Prior Board Actions

(See Attachment A, History of Prior Board Action, August 9, 2006 – May 11, 2012)

## Enrollment

The program offers full-time classes that are 51 weeks in length. The program requires Board approval prior to the admission of each class. The pattern of admissions for proposed classes is seen in the enrollment table below.

The following table represents **past, current and projected** student enrollment based on current and projected class starts and completions. The table indicates a **maximum enrollment of 58 students** during the period **June 2012 through June 2013**.

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Complete			
6/12		30	28	28
5/13		30 (proposed)		28 + 30 = 58
	6/13 (6/12 Class)		-28	58 - 28 = 30

## Licensing Examination Statistics

The following statistics, furnished by the Pearson Vue published by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing as "Jurisdictional Summary of All First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdiction," for the period January 2008 through December 2012, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the West Med College, Merced, Vocational Nursing Program on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical (Vocational) Nurses (NCLEX-PN®).

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Data							
Quarterly Statistics					Annual Statistics*		Variance from State Annual Average Pass Rate
Quarter	# Candidates	# Passed	% Passed	State Quarterly Pass Rate	Program Average Annual Pass Rate	State Average Annual Pass Rate	
Jan-Mar 2008	23	17	74%	76%	74%	76%	-2
Apr- Jun 2008	1	1	100%	75%	75%	75%	0
Jul-Sep 2008	2	2	100%	70%	77%	74%	+3
Oct – Dec 2008	3	3	100%	73%	79%	73%	+6
Jan – Mar 2009	21	11	52%	70%	63%	72%	-9
Apr – Jun 2009	8	5	63%	71%	62%	70%	-8
Jul – Sep 2009	13	9	69%	74%	62%	72%	-10
Oct – Dec 2009	3	0	0%	76%	56%	73%	-17
Jan – Mar 2010	22	15	68%	76%	63%	74%	-11
Apr – Jun 2010	10	7	70%	74%	65%	75%	-10
Jul – Sep 2010	25	20	80%	76%	70%	75%	-5
Oct – Dec 2010	9	4	44%	77%	70%	76%	-6
Jan – Mar 2011	28	15	54%	80%	64%	77%	-13
Apr – Jun 2011	9	5	56%	71%	62%	76%	-14
Jul – Sep 2011	23	10	44%	74%	49%	76%	-27
Oct – Dec 2011	28	14	50%	74%	50%	75%	-25
Jan – Mar 2012	10	4	40%	77%	47%	74%	-27
Apr – Jun 2012	10	4	40%	72%	45%	74%	-29
Jul – Sep 2012	13	9	69%	74%	51%	74%	-23
Oct – Dec 2012	26	10	38%	70%	46%	74%	-28

The Annual Pass Rate changes every quarter. It is calculated by dividing the number of candidates who passed during the current and previous three-quarters by the number of candidates who tested during the same period. If no data is available for the relevant period, the statistic is carried over from the last quarter for which data is available.

Based on the most current data available (October – December 2012), the program's average annual pass rate is **46%**. The California average annual pass rate for graduates from accredited vocational nursing programs who took the NCLEX-PN® for the first time is 74%. The average annual pass rate for the West Med College, Merced, Vocational Nursing Program is **twenty-eight (28) percentage points below** the state average annual pass rate.

### Faculty and Facilities

Section 2534 (d) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"For supervision of clinical experience, there shall be a maximum of 15 students for each instructor."

The current number of Board-approved faculty totals eleven (11), including the program director. The director has 80% administrative and 20% teaching duties. Of the total faculty, eleven (11) instructors are approved to teach clinical.

Based upon a maximum enrollment of 58 students, four instructors are required for clinical supervision. Therefore, the current number of faculty is adequate for the current enrollment.

Section 2534 (b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"Schools shall have clinical facilities adequate as to number, type, and variety of patients treated, to provide clinical experience for all students in the areas specified by Section 2533. There must be available for student assignment, an adequate daily census of patients to afford a variety of clinical experiences consistent with competency-based objectives and theory being taught."

The program has clinical facilities that are adequate as to type and variety of patients treated to enable current and proposed students to meet clinical objectives in accordance with Section 2534 (b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.

### **Other Considerations**

Over the past eight consecutive quarters, the program's quarterly pass rates on the NCLEX-PN® have been more than 20 percentage points below the state average annual pass rate. The program's plan of correction was implemented in February 2012. During the third and fourth quarters of 2012, 17 graduates from the March 2012 graduating class took the licensure examination and eight passed for a 47% licensure examination pass rate for that class. During the fourth quarter of 2012, 13 graduates from the July 2012 graduating class took the licensure examination and nine of them passed the examination for a 69% pass rate for that class. The July graduating class was exposed to more of the elements of the program's improvement plan and demonstrated marked improvement on the licensure examination. The remaining candidates testing for the first time in the fourth quarter were graduates from the July and November 2011 graduating classes. All of those candidates failed the examination.

On November 14, 2012, the program director submitted the required follow-up report describing the status of the implementation of the program's plan of improvement. (See Attachment B) The new elements that have been implemented included the following:

- Strengthening of selection test criteria for admission to the program. The admission score was raised from 17 to 19 on the Wonderlic Scholastic Level Examination.
- Adding an interview portion to the admission process.
- The instructional plan was updated and approved by the Board in June 2012 reflecting a "leveling out of the Pharmacology content integrated within the core curriculum."
- Textbooks were updated to include Pharmacology Math, Psychology and NCLEX-PN® practice questions.

- Implementation of the HESI exit examination starting with the March 2012 graduating class.

On November 21, 2012, the program director submitted a letter requesting admission of a new class of students in May 2013. The director indicated that in addition to the elements described in the plan of improvement described in the November 14, 2012, letter, the program is also offering the HESI study materials and exit examination to assist students from previous cohorts in preparing for the licensure examination. (See Attachment C)

On December 27, 2012, the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence requesting submission of eighteen (18) copies of pertinent documents, plan, and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire Board members to consider.

On January 10, 2013, the Board received electronic correspondence from the director indicating that she had no new information to add to her report dated November 14, 2012.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Approve West Med College, Merced, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a class of 30 full-time students and three alternates on May 21, 2013, **only**, graduating June 26, 2014, to **replace** students that graduate on June 27, 2013.
2. Continue to require the program to admit no other students unless approved by the full Board.

**Rationale:** The program's average annual pass rate remains below the accepted standard; however, the program has implemented changes aimed at improving that pass rate. The class that graduated in July 2012 had the benefit of some of the changes in the plan of improvement. That class has a 69% pass rate on the licensure examination to date. The first class to have full benefit of those changes is scheduled to graduate in June 2013. Licensure examination scores for that class should become available in the fourth quarter of 2013. The Board will look critically at the pass rate of that class. In order to allow the program to continue until that time, it is appropriate to approve the new class admission in May 2013. That cohort will be the only cohort for the program after June 2013.

Board staff will continue to closely monitor the program's effectiveness by tracking class admissions, the effectiveness of employed interventions, and the program's licensure examination pass rates quarterly, analyzing Annual Reports submitted by the program, and performing accreditation surveys every four (4) years.

- Attachment A: History of Prior Board Actions
- Attachment B: Program Correspondence dated November 6, 2012.
- Attachment C: Program Correspondence dated November 21, 2012.
- Attachment D: Request for copies of pertinent documents for Board members, dated December 27, 2012.

## Agenda Item #13.B.6, Attachment A

### History of Prior Board Actions

- On August 9, 2006, the Executive Officer approved the West Med College, Merced Vocational Nursing Program's request to begin a vocational nursing program with an initial full-time class of 30 students commencing September 25, 2006, **only**; and approved the program curriculum for 1544 hours, including 590 theory, and 954 clinical hours.

The Executive Officer directed that the program director consult weekly with the assigned Nursing Education Consultant and, if necessary, meet at the Board's Sacramento office to prevent non-compliance issues as occurred at the West Med - San Jose Vocational Nursing Program.

- On January 25, 2007, the program notified the Board that West Med College had become an affiliate of National University.
- **On August 6, 2007, a new program director was approved.**
- On August 7, 2007, the program **admitted a class** of 30 students plus three (3) alternates **without prior Board approval**.
- On October 2-3, 2007, the program was inspected to determine compliance with Article 5 of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations. Five (5) violations were identified. Those violations were corrected after the visit.
- On November 8, 2007, the Executive Officer approved initial full accreditation for the West Med College, Merced, Vocational Nursing Program for the period from October 3, 2007, through October 2, 2011, and issued a certificate accordingly; **and**, approved the program's request to admit a full-time class of 25 students on January 14, 2008 **only**, graduating February 15, 2009
- **On January 11, 2011, a new director was approved.**
- On November 3, 2011, the Executive Officer deferred action on the program's request for continued approval by the Board at its February 24, 2011 meeting. That decision was based on the program's noncompliance with California Code of Regulations Sections 2530(k), 2530 (l), 2527(c) and 2533(f). Additionally, the Executive Officer **denied** the program's request to admit a class of 30 students commencing on November 28, 2011 and graduating December 20, 2012, to **replace** students graduating on November 23, 2011, at this time, **and**,

Approved the program's major curriculum revision as follows:

Decrease overall program hours from 1544 to 1536.  
Decrease theory hours from 590 to 576.

Increase clinical hours from 954 to 960, **and**,

The director was required to submit a revised Instructional Plan by November 30, 2011.

- On November 30, 2011, the Board received the program's revised instructional plan
- On January 19, 2012, the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence requesting submission of fifteen (15) copies of pertinent documents, plan, and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire Board members to consider.
- On January 25, 2012, the Board received correspondence from the program director and fifteen (15) copies of pertinent documents and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire the Board members to consider.
- On February 24, 2012, the Board denied West Med College, Merced, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a day class of 30 full-time students on April 19, 2012, graduating on April 19, 2013, to **replace** a class that graduated November 23, 2011, at this time; **and**, denied the program's request to admit an evening class of 30 full-time students on April 30, 2012, graduating May 31, 2013, to **replace** a class that will graduate on March 28, 2012, at this time.

The Board also placed West Med College, Merced, Vocational Nursing Program on provisional approval for the two-year period from February 24, 2012, through February 28, 2014; **and**,

Required the program to admit no additional students unless approved by the full Board; **and**, required the program to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State average annual pass rate by **January 2, 2014**.

The program additionally was required to submit follow-up reports in nine months, but no later than **November 1, 2012**, and 21 months, but no later than **November 1, 2013**. The reports must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. The following elements must be addressed in the analysis.

- b. Admission Criteria.
- c. Screening and Selection Criteria.
- d. Terminal Objectives.
- e. Curriculum Objectives.
- f. Instructional Plan.
- g. Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course.
- h. Lesson Plans for Each Course.
- i. Textbooks.
- j. Attendance Policy.
- k. Remediation Policy.
- l. Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty.
- m. Evaluations of Theory Presentations.
- n. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.

- o. Evaluation of Student Achievement.
- p. Current Enrollment; **and**,

The program was also required to comply with all approval standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professions Code Section 2880, and Article 5 of the Board's Regulations, commencing at California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2526; **and**, required the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval; **and** advised the program that failure to take any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's approval.

The Board placed the program on the **February 2014** Board agenda for reconsideration of provisional approval.

- On March 19, 2012, the Board forwarded to the program, per certified and regular mail, the Notice of Change in Accreditation Status.
  - On March 26, 2012, the Board received the program's signed Acknowledgement of Change in Accreditation Status. The document was signed by the program director on March 26, 2012.
  - On April 4, 2012, the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence requesting submission of eighteen (18) copies of pertinent documents, plan, and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire Board members to consider.
  - On April 16, 2012, the Board received correspondence from the program director and eighteen (18) copies of pertinent documents and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire the Board members to consider.
1. On May 11, 2012, the Board approved the program's request to admit a class of 30 full-time students on June 4, 2012, graduating June 27, 2013, to **replace** students that graduated on November 23, 2011; and continued to require the program to admit no additional students unless approved by the full Board.



# Agenda Item #13.B.6, Attachment B



**WestMed  
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B V N P T

2012 NOV -8 PM 12:53

November 6, 2012

BVNPT Received *edu*  
on *11/14/12* with *mc*

RE: WestMed College 04-045 Provisional Accreditation Follow up Report

Suellen Clayworth, RN  
Nursing Education Consultant  
Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians  
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95833

Dear Ms. Clayworth,

WestMed College, Merced is pleased to present this report of accomplishments in our Vocational Nursing Program as evidence of our commitment to achieving benchmark NCLEX-PN pass rates and complying with all BVNPT directives. To this end, a number of changes were implemented to improve our selection criteria and to expand the knowledge and critical thinking skills of our students. A full report addressing all the requirement areas is attached (Attachment A). A summary of our actions and their results appears below:

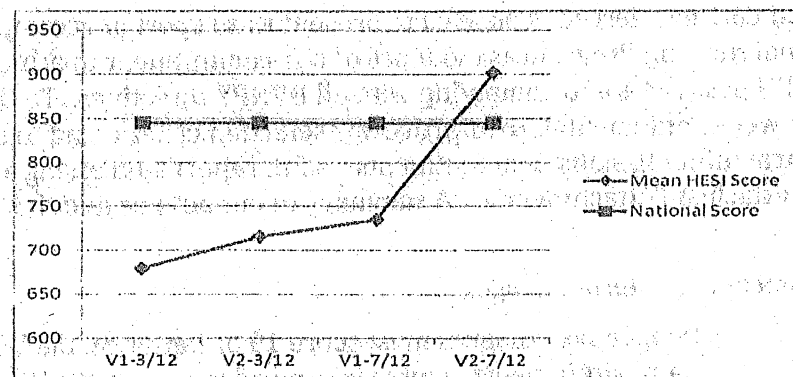
- Selection Criteria Changes

- Prospective students must score 19 or better on the Wonderlic admissions exam within two attempts for consideration to the VN Program.
- In addition to the above selection criteria, students for the 6/4/2012 cohort were interviewed. Interested students numbered 266. Of these, 65 students scored 19 or better on the Wonderlic exam and were considered for the class. Thirty-eight interviews were scheduled and 30 students selected from this group. To date, two students withdrew during the foundation courses for health reasons. The remaining 28 students were successful in the foundations courses and Term 1 of the program. Students are currently working through Term 2.
- The interview guide was refined for use with the next class based on feedback from interviews at the Merced and San Jose campuses (Attachment B).

- Instructional Plan Updates

- On June 1, 2012, the instructional plan was approved with updates reflecting a leveling out of the Pharmacology content integrated within the core curriculum (Attachment C).

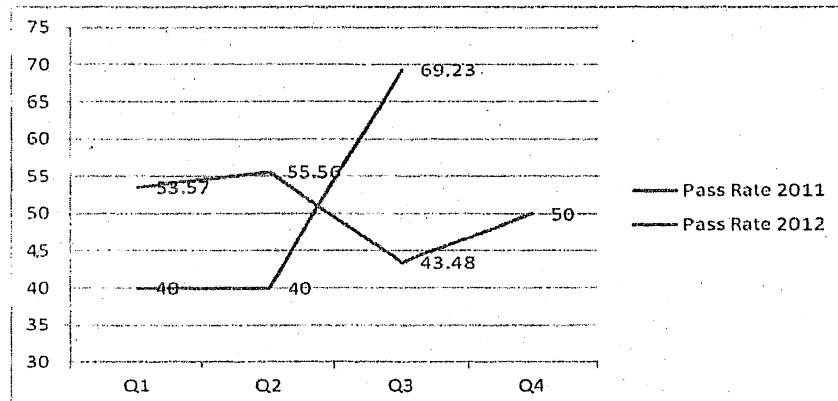
- Textbooks were updated to include Pharmacology Math, Psychology, and NCLEX-PN practice.
- Evolve Case Studies and Practice Exams
  - Graduates from the March 2012 cohort reviewed case studies and practice tests. They were given the opportunity to take up to four exit exams for recommendation to the Board. Of the 25 students completing this cohort, 20 successfully passed the HESI exit exam.
    - To date, 11 students have taken the NCLEX-PN exam and 8 passed. = 73%
  - Graduates from the July 2012 cohort had 18 weeks to work through specialty exams in psychology, maternity, and pediatrics while working through case studies and practice tests. Of the 30 students completing this class, 29 successfully passed the HESI exit exam.
    - To date, 1 student has taken the NCLEX-PN exam and passed.
  - The chart below depicts student progress in HESI testing results between the two cohorts. Student scores are trending upward and have exceeded the national average. In the weeks preceding the exit exam, instructors devote a great deal of time to review of all areas using a number of interactive means that have been successful in creating a competitive environment conducive to review.



- For the current cohort, case studies and specialty exams are implemented and woven throughout the curriculum. The case studies provide the students with opportunities to apply critical thinking and expand their subject knowledge through research and application.

- NCLEX Scores

- The third quarter report of 2012 shows a 69.23% pass rate. This represents a significant increase in the pass rate over previous quarters and puts the program within the acceptable range.



- To assist students from the past, WestMed College has offered to use the HESI testing and study materials to assist them in preparing for the exam. Two students have accepted the offer and are working with the Program Director.

The cumulative effect of the program improvements is a significant improvement in student success on the NCLEX-PN, as well as in their ability to critically think in their new roles as health care practitioners. We are continuing to evaluate and refine our processes with a student-centered focus. These actions will be continuously evaluated for success and modified accordingly.

I look forward to hearing from you. Please call if you have any questions.

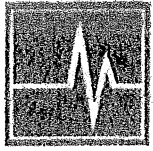
Sincerely,

Tracey Jensen  
VN Program Director

Attachments: A – WestMed College, Merced Program Review  
B – Interview Guide  
C – Student evaluation forms

cc. Dr. Charles Powell  
Ms. Deleta Rowe-Henry  
Ms. Pamela Hinckley  
File

## Agenda Item #13.B.6, Attachment C



**WestMed  
College**

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BVNPT Received *edc*  
on *11/3/12* with *mc*

BVNPT

2012 NOV 29 AM 11:22

November 21, 2012

RE: WestMed College 04-045, Request to Admit Students

Suellen Clayworth, RN  
Nursing Education Consultant  
Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians  
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95833

Dear Ms. Clayworth,

WestMed College, Merced is requesting to admit a class of 30 students plus 3 alternates to begin 5/21/2013 (VN20130521MC) for a day class completing on 6/26/2014. This class will represent our only class on campus after 6/27/2013.

WestMed College, Merced has made significant progress in achieving benchmark NCLEX-PN pass rates over the past 10 months. Our provisional accreditation report indicated several changes and their outcomes including:

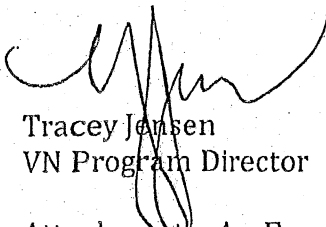
- Updates to Selection Criteria
  - Increased entrance score requirements
  - Added interview component
- Updates to the Instructional Plan
  - Addressed student and faculty concerns over textbooks and leveling pharmacology across the curriculum.
- NCLEX-PN Pass Rates
  - Evolve case students and HESI practice exams were added to the curriculum in February 2012. Two cohorts exiting the program this year had limited time with the case studies and exams; however, their results in the exit exam and NCLEX-PN have shown significant improvement.
  - Based on the third quarter NCLEX-PN pass rate report, graduates from March 2012 have 72.7% pass rate and graduates from July 2012 have 100% pass rate. The overall pass rate was 69.23%.

To assist students from previous cohorts, WestMed College has offered to use the HESI testing and study materials to assist them in preparing for the exam. The Program Director is working with these students to improve their NCLEX-PN success.

The cumulative effect of the program improvements is a significant improvement in student success on the NCLEX-PN, as well as in their ability to critically think in their new roles as health care practitioners. We are continuing to evaluate and refine our processes with a student-centered focus. These actions will be continuously evaluated for success and modified accordingly.

I look forward to hearing from you. Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Tracey Jensen  
VN Program Director

Attachments: A - Enrollment Table  
B - Faculty Tracking  
C - OB/Peds Tracking

cc. Dr. Charles Powell  
Ms. Deleta Rowe-Henry  
Ms. Pamela Hinckley  
File

# Agenda Item #13.B.6, Attachment D



BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS  
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December 27, 2012

Tracey Jensen, Director  
Vocational Nursing Program  
West Med College, Merced  
330 E. Yosemite Ave. Suite 201  
Merced, CA 95340

## ***Subject: Request to Admit Students***

Dear Ms. Jensen:

On February 21, 2013, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) is scheduled to consider the following items relative to the ***Medical Career College Vocational Nursing Program***.

### ***Consideration of Request to Admit Students***

To ensure dissemination to individual Board members and relevant staff for timely consideration at the February 22, 2013 Board Meeting, please submit:

- Eighteen (18) copies of any pertinent documents that you desire Board members to consider. If you have made further revisions to the program's plan of improvement since the report you submitted on November 14, 2012, please submit documentation of those changes. If you have additional information that you want the Board to see, please submit that documentation. Please remember existing statutes require that any document considered by the Board will become a public record. Accordingly, please redact all names of students.
- In addition, please provide any information that you submit for the Board members on a compact disc (CD) for Board use. Again, please remember to redact any student names prior to copying information onto the CD.

To ensure dissemination and review by Board Members prior to the meeting, the deadline for submission of the requested documents and the CD is **Thursday, January 10, 2013.**

Although the primary purpose of this letter is to convey the Board's need for the copies, please be assured that, if timely submitted, any correspondence and attachments will be reviewed and, if appropriate, information submitted may be included in the report of the assigned consultant.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Board at (916) 263-7843 should you have questions.

Sincerely,

*Suellen Clayworth*

**SUELLEN CLAYWORTH, M.S., R.N.**  
Nursing Education Consultant – Retired Annuitant